

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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BLOOMFIELD HIT HARD.

THE COUNTY ASSESSORS INCREASE THE VALUATION ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

Montclair and East Orange Also Increased—Orange and Newark Combine Against the Township—Doubt About the Legality of the Board's Action.

Between the oppressive heat and the discussion of the weighty subject of taxation the residents of this town have had a weary time of it during the past week. The tax topic divided honors even with the mercurial aspirations of the thermometer. The former was not a matter of choice, but was forced on the public by the surprising action of the County Board of Assessors in raising the valuations in this town \$1,000,000 in addition to the \$204,605 increase turned in by Assessor Baxter, making a total increase over 1891 of \$1,204,605.

Mr. Baxter anticipated an increase, and attended the meeting with the expectation that the showing on his books would meet with the approval of the board. He was completely staggered by the action of that body, as were the assessors from Montclair and East Orange, as the former town was increased \$952,900 and the latter \$2,961,58.

The annual meetings of the County Board have been invariably attended with a contest between the assessors from the townships and those from the city of Newark, Orange always acting with the townships. The efforts of the Newark members have been devoted to imposing on the townships a greater share of the county tax, contending that Newark paid more than its proportionate share. The township members have always been able to outvote the city members.

Last Monday the city men stole a march on the countrymen by effecting a combination with the members from Orange, and by a vote 20 to 16 were enabled to largely increase the valuations of the townships of Bloomfield, Montclair, and East Orange.

Orange profited by the combination in that the returns presented by its assessors were not changed. The combination did not show its hand until Orange was passed, and the township men did not realize that they were trapped until Montclair was reached, when Mr. Murphy of Orange moved to increase it \$850,000 over the returns presented by Assessor Morris. Mr. Morris protested vigorously, and was supported by Mr. Deacon of Livingston, but the protest was in vain. On motion of Mr. Murphy East Orange was also increased.

Mr. Morris endeavored to retaliate on Orange by moving to increase the valuations in that town \$3,000,000, but it was no go. The city men stood by Mr. Murphy, who had served their purpose so well. The raising of valuations in the townships met with approval in Newark. The Daily Advertiser says:

"The chief thing of interest in the work of the County Board of Assessors this year was the increase in the valuations forced on some of the wealthier townships. For years the representatives of these places have been attending the meetings of the County Board and asserting that valuations were as high as those of Newark. It is a matter of some notoriety that such is not the case. Properties very similarly situated are taxed much higher in Newark than in East Orange, for example. Comparisons with the bills paid show that the amount paid by East Orange taxpayers is only about 75 or 80 per cent. of the amount assessed on very similar property in Newark. The same is true of property located in other townships. An interesting comparison is shown by the averages of some of these places. In Newark the average amount of valuations assessed to each voter, according to the poll returned by the County Board, is \$3,064. This is supposed to be the average earthly possession of the head of each family in this city. One-third of the population of Newark reside on what is known as 'the Hill.' We doubt very much whether many of these people can claim ownership to \$3,000 worth of real and personal property."

After the Board adjourned on Monday afternoon, the assessors from Bloomfield, Montclair, Clinton, East Orange and Franklin refused to sign the returns, and the question was raised whether it was necessary that every member should sign or whether a majority was all that was needed. The matter was left to County Counsel Stevens to decide.

A special committee, consisting of Owen Conlon, chairman; Samuel Baxter, of Bloomfield, secretary; and Messrs. Lowey and Roder of Newark, Lee of Orange, Baker of South Orange, and Brundage of West Orange, was appointed to examine the valuations throughout the county and report next year.

Assessor Baxter has consulted Town Counsel Halsey M. Barrett with a view to contesting the action of the Board. Assessor Morris has also consulted Town Counsel Badgely of Montclair.

Joseph L. Mann, Township Counsel of East Orange, who is well posted in township affairs, expresses his views on the subject in an article published in the Evening News. Mr. Mann said:

"The Board has not had the smallest

possible legal foundation for its action. In fact, you can say they have not complied in any particular with the statute. In 1882 the County Board acted in a like manner with East Orange. At that time it jumped up the valuations \$400,000 or \$500,000, and I took the case before the Supreme Court, and it took the court about five minutes to decide against the Board. Just as soon as I presented my case the Judges, there were three on the bench, exactly who I do not remember now, said there was no need of giving a written opinion. The Board of Assessors did not seem to have done anything to comply with the statute.

"One of the most closely contested points then was under the laws of 1867. This requires a vote of two-thirds of the entire Board to increase valuations in any ward or township. There were then twenty-nine members of this Board, one was absent from the meeting, and they had nineteen votes to increase the valuations. This they claimed was two-thirds of twenty-nine. You see it was a nice point, but the Court decided against the Board.

"Now, there was no pretense of having a two-thirds vote last Monday yet the law still stands, I believe, unless something was done to alter it during the last legislative session. There were, accepting the Board's own construction of its membership, which we do not allow and which I will explain later on, thirty-six members, Newark having fifteen, Orange five and the townships sixteen. But twenty is not two-thirds of thirty-six by long odds, and still that is on their own count. I do not believe there is a member of the present Board who knows of the existence of such a law. But Newark has not fifteen votes. According to the law of 1866 Newark's Tax Board is entitled to as many votes as there shall be wards in the city. Now there are only nine wards in the city. Either the law creating nine wards in Newark stands or it does not. Newark certainly cannot create nine wards to elect councilmen from and still have fifteen wards to elect Assessors from. I do not know how it is that the Board acted this way. It had made its valuations on the old ward lines. Possibly, you know, the last Legislature did something. By allowing them only nine votes the townships would defeat them on the majority vote, as it would stand fourteen for the increased valuations and sixteen against.

More than this, there is a regular prescribed form for increasing valuations, and which has the endorsement of an opinion of the Supreme Court. The law requires that a resolution shall be passed as follows:

"Resolved, That the Board, having examined the duplicates of the townships do hereby adjust and determine that the valuations are relatively less than in other parts of said county."

"This is to be followed by a resolution that the valuations be increased such and such a per cent. No such action was taken, and no duplicates were examined. In fact the assessors did not know if the duplicates were there. They did not so much as extend the courtesy to the townships of asking them for those duplicates. They simply arose and advanced rate in lump sums. There are a number of other statutory points that have an important bearing on the case, but they are not of any very great interest."

OUR POOR-HOUSE.

A Correspondent Gives a Hint to the Charitably Inclined People of Bloomfield.

While the people of this town have earned a reputation for their charity and generosity, yet how few of them have ever visited the town-farm, or poor-house, as it is commonly called. A correspondent writes as follows:

"Bloomfield, with its beautiful Park, noble elms, and numerous handsome churches, has many things of which to be proud, but its poor-house is not one of them. The name is a synonym for shame and misery unfortunately, so one does not expect to find luxury there, but the writer was unprepared for the bareness of comforts in this home of the town's unfortunates. The house and location are pleasant, but bare floors give the visitor his first impression of discomfort which might be obviated by putting off cloth on the hall stairs and dining-room. The entire furniture of the house consists of four cots, a few chairs, a washstand, a dining-table and a small cylinder stove. The matron, Mrs. Bertha Yost Baum, is using her own cooking-stove and furniture and keeps the house spotlessly clean.

"It seems as if in this town of missionary boxes, sewing societies, and King's Daughters, the inmates of the poor-house might be provided for. The matron has no time for sewing, but she has managed to make a cotton gown for one of the old women, which, with an insufficient supply of underwear, is all she has. The discharged patient from the Mountaineer Hospital, Mrs. Ann Snyder, was lying upon a cot with an unhemmed piece of unbleached muslin for a sheet and a folded quilt and a small pillow under her head.

"There are at present three inmates, for whom abundant food is provided and a roof to shelter them, and for whom the matron does the best she can, but a hundred dollars expended on oil-cloth, dishes and necessary furniture would change the comfortless house to the semblance of a home.

"Another thing the writer would like to suggest is that something be done for the spiritual welfare of the inmates. No man of God ever sets foot there, and it is far away from the churches. Surely where the old and feeble are 'only waiting' there should sometimes be heard the words of Holy Writ and the voice of prayer."

THE TAX RATE WILL BE \$2.94

AN INCREASE OF FORTY-FOUR CENTS OVER LAST YEAR.

Caused by Larger Appropriations and the County Board of Assessors' Increase in Valuations.

Assessor Samuel H. Baxter has completed the tax levy for the current year, and the result is here given in detail. The rate is based on the increased valuation made by the County Board of Assessors. Mr. Baxter is in doubt as to what action the Town Committee will take in regard to the increased valuations. He anticipates that the Committee will be advised by the Town Council next Monday afternoon as to the proper course to be pursued.

The valuations returned this year by the Assessor are as follows:

	Real.	Per'n's	Exempt.	Total.
First Dist.	\$187,975	\$13,700	\$1,500	\$203,175
Second Dist.	1,583,425	201,600	27,000	1,782,025
Third Dist.	296,875	83,300	8,200	388,375
Fourth Dist.	1,300,975	138,375	38,800	1,478,150
Bank stock.		128,375		
Total	\$3,347,450	\$366,275	\$76,500	3,820,175

The exemption column represents actual exemptions of firemen and soldiers, with the exception of \$3,550 sworn off as indebtedness, which latter is considered a very small sum in a township as large as Bloomfield.

The gain in valuations over last year is \$204,605.

The local tax-rate is as follows:

	1 D.	2 D.	3 D.	4 D.	1891.
County	.90	.90	.90	.90	.68
Township	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	.90
Schools	.12	.48	.48	.48	.48
Gas	.22	.22	.22	.22	.28
Water	.22	.22	.22	.22	.28
Sidewalks	.04	.04	.04	.04	.06
Total tax rate 1892	2.52	2.92	3.02	3.94	
Total tax rate 1891	2.22	2.54	2.66	2.90	
Increase	.30	.38	.36	.44	

The appropriations for the current year were \$39,050, and with \$16,040 for gas and water added makes a total of \$55,090. The appropriations last year were \$31,300 for general purposes and \$16,500 for gas and water, a total of \$47,800, being \$6,290 less than the current year. The second district appropriated \$600 for sidewalk grading, the third \$500, the fourth \$700. The amount included in the tax levy last year for school purposes was \$14,000; this year it is \$16,000.

The tax districts in the township are as follows: the first district comprises all that portion of the town north of Bay Avenue; second district, all south of Bay Avenue, west of the Morris Canal, north and east of Bloomfield Avenue; third district, all that portion east of the Morris Canal; fourth district, all that portion south and west of Bloomfield Avenue.

Affected by the Heat.

A sensation was created in the west end of town this week over the disappearance of Mrs. Sarah V. Fitzgerald, wife of William E. Fitzgerald of 32 Clinton Street. Mrs. Fitzgerald left her home between three and four o'clock Tuesday afternoon, telling the servant-girl that she was going to the Centre to do some shopping. She did not return and diligent inquiry failed to reveal her whereabouts. She is the mother of four children, the youngest only nine months old and still nursing. Mr. Fitzgerald could give no possible reason for his wife's disappearance, and says that when he left her on Tuesday morning to go to business in New York she bade him good-bye in a cheerful manner. He said she was in perfect health. He notified the Newark and New York police. Mrs. Fitzgerald was found in Brooklyn on Thursday night at a friend's house. She had been overcome by the heat and had wandered off.

Bloomfield's Wheelmen.

A meeting of the Bloomfield Cyclers was held in James Crisp & Co.'s factory last Monday night, when by-laws were adopted. The initiation fee was fixed at \$5, and the dues will be 50 cents per month. Many new names were added to the roll, and the club will start off with a membership of about forty. Another meeting will be held in Spragg's Pavilion, on Glenwood Avenue, next Monday night, at which time officers will be elected and a club uniform adopted. All wheelmen in this vicinity are cordially invited to join the club.

Field Day to be Held in Bloomfield.

Last week Bloomfield Division, U. S. K. of P., received word that their request to have Knights of Pythias Field Day celebrated in Bloomfield had been granted. Wednesday, October 5, is the date set. A special meeting of the division will be held next Wednesday evening in the rooms of the Bloomfield Building and Loan Association, over the Town Committee rooms, at which time committees will be appointed to make arrangements for the celebration.

Happy and content is a home with "The Rochester" a lamp with the light of the morning. Call on Rochester Lamp Co., 48 Park Place, N. Y.

A SCHOOL IN GLEN RIDGE.

EXTRA ROOM NEEDED IN ALL THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Nine Thousand Dollars Appropriated to Build Wings on the Liberty Street Primary—A Small Attendance but Lively Discussion at the School Meeting.

About twenty-two voters were assembled in the High School room on Tuesday night when District Clerk William A. Baldwin called the meeting to order in the usual formal manner. Theodore H. Ward presided. An unexpected discussion over the question of a school in Glen Ridge was precipitated upon the meeting by Charles M. Lockwood, and was pursued with a considerable degree of animation, particularly on the part of Mr. Lockwood.

That gentleman announced that he had come to the meeting for the express purpose of advocating the erection of a school-house in Glen Ridge and was authorized to offer a plot of ground for that purpose. He did not state who authorized him to make the offer or where the property was situated. Mr. Lockwood mystified the assemblage by stating that he was not a citizen of this town. This led to a questioning of his right to speak in the meeting. He then explained that he voted in the town and paid taxes here. It was apparent that his remarks about non-residence were more sarcasm, assumed, as he himself stated, because he had not been asked to estimate on the work of enlarging the Liberty Street School.

After voting the \$13,000 recommended by the Trustees for current expenses and \$3,000 towards the payment of the bonded indebtedness, Thomas Oakes introduced a resolution authorizing the Trustees to issue bonds to the amount of \$9,000 for the enlargement of the Liberty Street school, the bonds to be of \$1,000 denomination and bearing 5 per cent. interest, payable semi-annually. The bonds are not to be sold below par.

The series numbers are 22 to 30 inclusive, the first three numbers payable in 1894, the second three in 1899, and the last three in 1900. A plan of the proposed enlargement of the school was shown. It is proposed to erect a two-story wing on each side of the school which will give two play-rooms and two additional class-rooms. Mr. Oakes explained that owing to the constantly increasing attendance at the Centre Primary School the existing play-rooms had to be utilized as class-rooms.

In reply to a question Mr. Oakes said that the work of enlarging the building would interfere somewhat with the conducting of the school, but by using a room at Berkeley and the Trustees' room at the High School temporary accommodation could be made for the scholars.

Chas. M. Lockwood opposed the plan of enlarging the Liberty Street school and demanded that the Glen Ridge district be given a school-house. Mr. Lockwood delivered a violent tirade against the policy of the Trustees, which he denounced as "highway robbery all the way through." He contradicted the assertions of Mr. Oakes in reference to the time required for the preparation of plans and the erection of a building. He declared himself a friend of the cause of education and demanded fair play. He regretted the absence of his friends, who had promised to be present and support him in his demand for a school.

Fred M. Davis asked if the erection of a school-house in Glen Ridge would relieve the Centre Primary.

Mr. Oakes said that there was no doubt but that it would to some extent, but how long was a matter of uncertainty.

Trustee William A. Baldwin said that the question of enlarging the Liberty Street school was a matter entirely aside from that of building a school at Glen Ridge. The Trustees were now confronted with the question of the necessity for more room and must have it at once. It would take at least two years to build a new school. The attendance at the schools was increasing at the rate of two classes a year. A new class at the Centre Primary and one at Berkeley would be started with the opening of the schools in September.

Nathan Russell said that while the subject of a school in Glen Ridge was under discussion he thought it would be wise to take some action towards its erection in the near future. He knew the people wanted a school there and advised the securing of a lot for a school site.

Trustee E. A. Smith said the Board of School Trustees would be very glad to receive assistance from the people of Glen Ridge in securing a plot in that locality for a school site. He said the Trustees were fully aware of the necessity of a school there and had perhaps given the matter more consideration than the people who lived there. Mr. Smith cited the experience undergone several years ago, when an effort was made to secure a lot for a school in Glen

Ridge, no one would sell any property for that purpose.

Mr. Oakes corroborated what Mr. Smith said in connection with the difficulty of securing a suitable lot in Glen Ridge. He said that the only property that could be bought for school purposes was in a sand-pit. The proper location for a school there, Mr. Oakes added, was somewhere not far south of Washington Street, and not further north than Bloomfield Avenue.

C. M. Lockwood contended that the sand-pit referred to was a central location.

A. J. Lockwood said that perhaps some of the citizens of Glen Ridge who were interested in having a school there might be able to find a piece of property that would make an available site for a school and might assist the Trustees in securing it.

Trustee J. Banks Reford said that he had been spoken to several times of late about a school in Glen Ridge. He found that an impression prevailed that the proposition to enlarge the Liberty Street school was a movement to freeze out Glen Ridge. Mr. Reford asserted that this was not so. Room was needed at the Centre Primary at once. The Brookside school needed enlarging and it ought to be done this year. The new Berkeley school will soon be filled. Mr. Reford said he had taken part in a movement to secure a school in the west end fifteen years ago, when Glen Ridge was not even in an embryotic state. It failed, and he gave it up in disgust.

Seymour P. Gilbert said that in conversation with Joseph D. Gallagher the latter had authorized him to state that he had property in Glen Ridge that he would sell for school purposes. The location was not stated.

The resolution offered by Mr. Oakes was voted on and carried. Four votes were cast in the negative.

The annual report of the Trustees was presented. The present value of school property in the town is estimated at \$90,000, on which there is an indebtedness of \$17,000. The receipts for the year have been: From the State appropriation, \$10,895.27; taxes, \$14,000; other sources, \$8,576.95; total, \$33,472.22. The expenditures have been \$32,451.49, the principal item of which was \$16,893.36 for teachers' salaries. The school census shows 1,958 children of school age, of whom 1,124 are enrolled on the school books, and the average attendance 840. Four hundred and twenty-six children in the district attend no school and 135 attend private schools.

The school libraries are reported in good condition. The force of the teachers engaged for the next school term is as follows:

John B. Dunbar, principal; Miss Ella Draper, first assistant; Lida E. Le Maistre, second assistant; Louisa Russell, drawing instructor; J. S. Preston, writing instructor.

Grammar School teachers: Ella V. Holmes, Samantha Wheeler, Edith E. Hulin, R. Anna Baird, Mary J. Sloan, Minnie Martin, Flora Van Campen, Kate F. Hubbard.

Centre Primary teachers: Mary M. Draper, principal; Lizzie Otis, Ed. Robinson, Mrs. Mary L. Ellenwood, Lillie Galloway, Eva Hall, Jennie Rusby.

Berkley School teachers: Alice Odum, principal; Beattie Sutphen, Harriet H. Peloubet, Arvilla Martin, Mabel L. Olmsted, May Van Capen.

Brookside School: Jennie Baird and Ida M. Titus.

Assaulted by Russians.

Michael McNamara, who formerly lived in this town, but who now resides at No. 46 Kearney Street, East Orange, paid a visit here on Friday night, and it was about eight o'clock when he started for home. Just below A. J. Lockwood's residence on Ridgewood Avenue he met three young men, one of whom accosted him with the remark: "Say, young fellow, give us the price of a quart of beer." McNamara told him he could not do it, as he did not have it.

"Well, what is the matter with leaving us your coat? We could get something out of that," remarked one of the growler chasers. To this McNamara demurred, and he was set upon by the men. He beat off two of his assailants, when the third pulled out a knife and slashed him across the left hand, cutting it to the bone. McNamara shouted for help, and a gentleman who resides close by ran to his aid, but the highwaymen took to their heels. His rescuer procured a horse and carriage and took him to a drug-store in Orange, where the cut was bandaged, after which Dr. Bailey attended him. The place where he was attacked is a very lonely one.

Salesmen Wanted.

Each season the increasing business of Geo. Watson & Co., the celebrated Newark clothiers, compels them to add new salesmen in both their ready-made and custom departments. Just now they want a bright, honest young man from this locality, who has a large acquaintance, to wait on their numerous customers who live in this section. Apply by letter only, stating particulars, but previous knowledge of the business is not essential.—Advt.

DEATH OF T. W. LANGSTROTH

HE QUIETLY PASSED AWAY ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

A Brief Sketch of His Life—Active in Public Affairs.

The Hon. Thomas W. Langstroth died at his late residence on Washington Street, at four o'clock on Thursday afternoon, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. His death was due to paralysis.

Thomas Wyckoff Langstroth was born in New Hope, Pa., February 24, 1826. He was the youngest son of a large family, and when but eleven years of age started out in life a poor boy. During his youth he worked principally in grist mills in Belleville, Bloomfield and Newark. Thirty-two years ago he erected his late home on Washington Street, and moved his family here from Chatham.

In the year 1850 Mr. Langstroth engaged in the manufacture of State Prison locks, bank locks, and patent night latches in Newark, the firm name being B. N. Jenkins, Langstroth & Crane, and in 1852 were succeeded by Langstroth & Crane, Mr. Jenkins retiring. Eventually, in 1877, on the retirement of Mr. Crane, Mr. Langstroth became sole proprietor.

Mr. Langstroth was the inventor of the round latch-key and lock, which he patented, but finding the key too bulky he designed the flat latch-key. He secured a patent on the lock, but failed to protect his rights on the flat key, and the result was that the Yale Company began manufacturing them. Mr. Langstroth began a suit against the company but compromised with them before a decision was rendered in the case.

During his life Mr. Langstroth engaged in many enterprises. He was at one time a Director in the Firemen's Insurance Company of Newark and the Montclair Gas and Water Company, Vice-President of the Humboldt Insurance Company, and was an active member of the Bloomfield Library Association. He was very much interested in the success of the latter association, and was one of the few gentlemen who gave their personal bond when its affairs were in a critical state. Mr. Langstroth served three years in the Bloomfield Township Committee, from 1869 to 1871. He was also an active Freemason, having been the Worshipful Master of Bloomfield Lodge three terms, and was its senior Past Master. He was a member of Damascus Commandery, Knights Templars, of Newark and an honorary member of Columbia Commandery, No. 1, of Washington, D. C. For thirty-two years he was a member of Park M. E. Church, serving many years as Trustee.

In 1880 Mr. Langstroth was elected a member of the General Assembly, and so distinguished himself that upon his re-election in 1881 he was made chairman of the important Committee on Corporations, and a member of the Committees on Railroads and Canals, on State Prisons, on the Industrial School for Girls, and the Public Grounds and Buildings Committee. He was also a member of the Committee on Governor Ludlow's Inauguration.

Mr. Langstroth had been failing in health for several years, and received a severe blow in the death of his wife, which occurred in April, 1891, while he was lying sick. In January of this year, accompanied by J. Banks Reford, he took a trip to Florida to benefit his health, and while there in March he was stricken with paralysis. He was brought home suffering from paresis, and on June 8 his two sons, William G. and T. Winsor, were appointed guardians by the Orphans' Court.

Mr. Langstroth leaves five children—Fred E., Mary A., wife of Fred H. Carl; Sable P., wife of John G. Zabriskie; William G., and Thomas Winsor.

Funeral services will be held from his late residence on Washington Street Monday afternoon at 2:30. Interment will be made in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Newark.

Death of Thomas Albionson, Sr.

Thomas Albionson, Sr., aged seventy-one years, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Stephen Gilson, Grace Street, on Monday morning from paralysis. Mr. Albionson had been a resident of Bloomfield nearly half a century, and was an ardent Democrat. He was a native of England. Mr. Albionson was a tatter by trade, and at one time engaged in manufacturing hats. A number of years ago he with several other residents of this town started a co-operative store. The co-operative feature proved a failure, and in order to secure his investment Mr. Albionson was compelled to purchase the establishment, which he did and conducted it for a number of years, subsequently taking his son Thomas, Jr., into partnership.

Mr. Albionson was one of the original members of Christ Episcopal Church, and when St. Paul's Church was started in Watseking he joined the movement and has been identified with that church ever since. His wife died several months ago, and shortly after he suffered a stroke of paralysis, from the effects of which he never recovered. He leaves a son and two daughters, Thomas Albionson, Jr., Mrs. Stephen Gilson, and Mrs. Allan Andrew. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon from the residence of Mrs. Gilson, the Rev. E. A. White of Christ Church officiating. ad 11.